

It is up to us to Make This the Best Year in the History of the Valley. Are You Willing to Help?

The Columbus Courier

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No. 29

Leasing Oil Land

H. W. Wilson, of El Paso, arrived here Wednesday evening and is taking a few more leases on lands located in the vicinity of the oil well. His lease guarantees the sinking of a deep well and that the work will begin within sixty days. The Columbus Oil Company are leasing their holdings to him and Mr. Wilson says he will have a standard rig at work sinking a deep well within thirty days from the date he secures the required amount of leases, which it is reported that he now has.

It has been almost three years now since the first discovery of oil in the valley and as yet no attempt has been made to ascertain whether this is an oil field or not. Every indication has looked good to those who are supposed to know something about oil prospects, and a number of investors have signified their willingness to make a thorough test provided they could get leases enough to protect themselves in case they developed a field.

It seems that some of the people who own the lands are beginning to realize that it is absolutely worthless to them as oil land unless it is developed, and are deciding to lease. The operation has been held back for the simple reason that the people would not lease their land, but now the way things are lined up it seems that a thorough test will be made at once.

The growth of Columbus and increase in value of property in the Lower Mineros can hardly be imagined in case a big oil field is developed and those who are interested in the future of this country should aid Mr. Wilson in every way possible. A deep well will also solve the artesian water problem. The well on Joe T. Dent's place has been flowing for over a year now, though the flow is too small to be of much value as an irrigation well, it will furnish water for several hundred head of cattle during the entire year. If oil is not developed and a large flow of artesian water is uncovered the help to the valley will be something of importance and the test will be of much interest to the people who own property in the valley from a water standpoint. Money has been raised two or three times to sink a deep well for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there was artesian water, none, and now that this test will be made it will hold a two fold interest for all concerned.

Homer Osborne is building a dwelling on his homestead this week. His claim is ten miles due west of town.

New Mexico Breaks Record

New Mexico continued to advance as a metal mining State and the mine output in 1915 exceeded all records. The year's production is estimated at \$1,500,000 in gold, 2,062,000 ounces of silver, 3,961,000 pounds of lead, 72,000,000 pounds of copper, and 24,610,000 pounds of zinc. These figures represent an increase of \$325,000 in gold, 255,000 ounces of silver, 2,180,000 pounds of lead, 12,574,000 pounds of copper, and 8,237,000 pounds of zinc. With higher values for metals, except for silver, the total value was \$18,877,000, against \$11,049,982 in 1914, an increase of \$7,226,660. Copper has become an important metal in New Mexico, the State's total output to date being 318,000,000 pounds, of which the 1915 production was 72,000,000.

Stricken With Paralysis

County Commissioner John Hund was stricken with paralysis on Saturday evening while at the home of his nephew, J. E. Dieudonne, the whole left side being affected. While Mr. Hund is seriously ill his medical advisers do not entertain any fears that the stroke will prove fatal. There has been a slight improvement in his condition, and this improvement is expected to continue.

Quarters Nearing Completion

The work on the framed quarters for the Thirteenth Cavalry is being rushed as much as possible and will be ready for the boys to occupy in a short time.

The band quarters are now complete with the exceptions of the cover, the roofing having not yet arrived. Some of the troops also have their buildings almost complete with the exception of the roof.

There is some talk of three of the troops going to Fort Riley, Kansas, but to date no order has been issued to that effect and it is hardly expected at this season of the year. Very few like the idea of moving to a cold place as Kansas in the middle of winter.

Mrs. M. E. Tarwater is down in Texas for a visit with her daughters near her old home. Since she left her oldest daughter at home got married, and the other girl being away, left the old man Tarwater without a cook and he is now using the mail service very frequently trying to persuade the Mrs. to give up her visit and return home.

Mrs. John Dalton was called to the bedside of her mother a few days ago.

New Years Wedding

On New Years Day Constable T. A. Hubsey of Columbus, and Miss Willie Mae Seymour, of Dothan, Alabama, were united in marriage, by Judge Dan M. Jackson, in El Paso. They came to Columbus immediately after the ceremony and will make their future home here.

The bride had been in El Paso the last year, but her home was at Dothan, Alabama, and she and Mr. Hubsey had known each other for a number of years. These good people started the new year right and we wish them a long, happy and prosperous voyage on the sea of matrimony.

Visitors From Arkansas

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Stacy, of Vandale, Arkansas, are here for a visit with their daughter, Mrs. C. E. Rogers. This is their first visit to New Mexico and they are very favorably impressed with our fine climate. Mr. Stacy says it is the best climate of any country he ever saw. He says there is only one thing for us to do to get all the settlers we are looking for and that is to advertise—tell the people what we have here.

Appointed To Fill Vacancy

At a meeting of the Columbus Board of Education Thursday evening J. L. Greenwood was appointed to fill the vacancy made by the absence of A. E. Kemp. Kemp was elected for the long term of four years from April 1st, and Mr. Greenwood's term will be until April 1919. The Board is now composed of the following: Two year term, expiring in April 1917, Mrs. George T. Peters and A. G. Ballenger. Long term, expiring in April 1919, J. A. Moore, P. K. Lemmon, Jr., and J. L. Greenwood.

Develops Good Well

Victor L. Piepmeyer has installed a good pumping plant over his well and has developed a flow of 500 gallons per minute. The well is in the shallow water district in the gap and was sunk to a depth of only 50 feet. The lift is about twenty feet and the fifteen horse power engine he has installed furnishes ample power. Mr. Piepmeyer now has water to irrigate as much of his ranch as he cares to put under cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Zeno Johnson, of Mesa, N. M., spent a week here visiting friends and relatives. Zeno had his foot crushed last summer in a hay rake, and has been unable to work since.

Miss Goebel Files Report

Luna county schools appear to be in splendid condition, judging by a report received today by the state department of education from Grace Goebel, county school superintendent. With a total value of \$157,845 in school property, the county owns all but one of its school buildings and has a record of 8.4 months for school, while in DeMing, the county seat, 29 teachers taught nine months.

The total value of school sites is \$28,725; of buildings, \$112,455; of furnishings and equipment, \$22,445; of library books, \$2,140; of industrial equipment, \$2,600.

There are 23 school buildings in Luna county with a total of 48 rooms and all of the buildings, except one, are owned by the county. All of them are classed as in excellent condition except five, four of which are rated as "good" and one as "poor." Five of the structures are of brick, 11 are of frame and four of adobe. There is one of stone and two of cement.

The statistics on school census are interesting. There were 796 male and 700 female, English-speaking pupils, making a total of 1,507; there were 302 male and 307 female, Spanish speaking pupils, totaling 609. The total male pupils was 1,101, female 1,075; grand total, 2,396.

Enrolled was as follows: English-speaking pupils, male, 624; female 553; total, 1,177. Spanish speaking pupils, male, 154; female, 118; total 272. Thus the total was: Male 778; female 671; total, 1,449. The number in average daily attendance totaled 1,082 3/4. By grades the enrollment was as follows: Kindergarten, 150; primary, 77; first, 195; second, 182; third, 158; fourth, 118; fifth, 124; sixth, 115; seventh, 90; eighth, 85; ninth, 60; tenth, 39; eleventh, 34; twelfth, 17.

By class they ranged as follows: Agriculture, 171; domestic science, 167; manual training, 278; and commercial branches, 49.

The average annual salary paid teachers in the county was \$721.94. The average for men was \$1,101.39; for women, \$670.00. The average monthly salary in DeMing was \$70.11; outside DeMing 73.13. In DeMing 29 teachers taught nine months. The average school term for the whole county was 8.4 months.—Santa Fe New Mexican of Jan. 4.

Peterson-Tarwater

On Monday, December 27, in El Paso, occurred the wedding of Miss Anna Tarwater to Rulen Peterson. They motored to DeMing a few days before and secured a marriage license and intending to get married there, but on account of being unable to find a minister of their religious faith in DeMing they went to El Paso and were married.

The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Tarwater and has a host of friends in the valley. The groom is a young and well known cattle man. They will make their home here. The Courier extends congratulations.

W. C. T. U.

The W. C. T. U. will meet at the home of Mrs. L. J. Poach on Tuesday, January 11. All the ladies are cordially invited to attend.

Fear Extinction of Antelope in State

Some months ago the Forest Service announced the results of a preliminary antelope census of New Mexico. A second estimate is now announced, based on revised data, which places the antelope population of the state at 350 head. This figure, it is stated, may be considered nearly correct.

The data on which this figure is based indicates a total of 22 herds, widely scattered over all except the northwestern part of the state, where the immense area surrounding the "Navajo country" appears to be absolutely cleared out. The largest herd is that on the Bell ranch, which C. M. O'Donel, the manager of the property, estimates at 200 head. The smallest herd is that of Gran Quivera, where a little band of five appears to be the sole remnant of the thousands which formerly ranged in the Estancia valley. Three herds, totalling 255 head, are reported as ranging mostly on National Forest land. The rest are on the plains of the public domain. The reports received indicate that 11 out of the 22 herds are decreasing, while the others are barely holding their own. Not a single herd is definitely reported as on the increase.

Roughly estimating that there were originally at least two head of antelope per square mile of

Waterloo Items

W. T. Dixon went to Columbus Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Manning, E. P. White, A. S. White, and family were entertained at the Carter home New Years day.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Dexter and Mrs. Hodgson of Capitol Dome were taking in the sights around Waterloo Sunday.

Mrs. Dixon is quite sick with la grippe.

Messdames Gibson and Pierce motored to Deming Monday.

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suitable range, the district forester thinks that the original antelope population of the state must have numbered at least 160,000. On the basis of this figure, the present remnant of 350 head implies a decrease of 99 1/2 per cent.

"These figures speak for themselves," says District Forester A. C. Ringland, of Albuquerque, and adds that they emphasize the timeliness of the present game protection movement in New Mexico. "If the Game Protective Associations had come into being five years hence," he says, "they would have found no antelope left to save. At present, they may or may not succeed in rescuing the species, but they at least have a chance."

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Is often enough to buy a farm wagon

THE FAMOUS STUDEBAKER

\$75 and up

J. L. WALKER

New Mexico as a Wealth Producer

STATISTICS FOR 1915

Wealth production, \$100,000,000.

Area 78,401,920 acres.

Public lands, 27,455,682 acres. State lands 12,069,438 acres. (7,816,637 acres selected.)

Forest reserves, 8,582,550 acres. Other reserves, 4,564,801 acres.

Crop production, \$18,000,000.

Range production, \$22,000,000.

Mineral production, \$25,000,000.

Manufactured products, \$12,000,000.

Wheat, 2,160,000 pounds, corn 2,860,000 pounds, oats 2,160,000 pounds, apples 276,000 barrels, potatoes 800,000 bushels.

Cattle \$47,000,000, cattle shipped 360,325 head, sheep shipped 1,290,400 head, sheep \$22,000,000, wool \$4,500,000.

Expended for education \$2,150,000.

High Cost of Living

Is talked about more than any one thing by the American people. The people of Columbus can't complain if they trade with us. Just get our prices on the next order of groceries.

SAM RAVEL